

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205191

47

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EI, MARR, PINT

SUBJECT: VISIT BY US NAVAL SHIPS

1. AT RECENTLY CONCLUDED INTERNATIONAL NAVAL SEAPOWERS  
SYMPOSIUM HELD IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, CHIEF OF NAVAL  
OPERATIONS, ADMIRAL J.L. HOLLOWAY MET PRIVATELY WITH  
CAPTAIN PETER KAVANAGH, DIRECTOR OF THE IRISH NAVAL SERVICE.  
MEETING WAS ESSENTIALLY SOCIAL CALL ENABLING CAPTAIN  
KAVANAGH TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR BEING INCLUDED IN THE  
SYMPOSIUM. ONE ISSUE OF INTEREST DID ARISE, HOWEVER, THAT  
OF US NAVY SHIP VISITS TO IRELAND.

2. WHEN QUERIED BY ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY IF HE FORESAW ANY OBJEC-  
TIONS TO USN PORT VISITS, CAPTAIN KAVANAGH STATED ABSOLUTELY  
NOT. HE SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT A VISIT PROGRAM, THOUGH  
APPROVAL WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO COME FROM IRISH FOREIGN  
OFFICE. HE FELT THAT INITIAL VISIT SHOULD BE BY A NON-  
COMBATANT SHIP AND, IF THIS WERE SUCCESSFUL, VISITS BY  
COMBATANT TYPES MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY  
REPLIED THAT, WHILE US NAVY DID NOT ENVISION A HEAVY  
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PAGE 02 STATE 205191

SCHEDULE, IT WOULD LIKE THE OPTION OF AN OCCASIONAL VISIT

TO IRELAND FOR SHIPS DEPLOYING OVERSEAS. ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY SUGGESTED US NAVY TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING THE MATTER.

3. LAST USN COMBATANT SHIP TO VISIT IRELAND WAS USS PLYMOUTH ROCK, A MEDIUM SIZE AMPHIBIOUS SHIP, IN MID-1970. VISIT WAS MARRED BY INCIDENT WHERE US SAILOR WAS SHOT AT LONG DISTANCE BY 22 CALIBER RIFLE. CAPTAIN KAVANAGH POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAD OCCURRED DURING VIETNAM WAR WHEN FEELINGS WERE RUNNING HIGH IN IRELAND. HE BELIEVES SITUATION HAS CHANGED AND IRISH WOULD WELCOME USN SHIP VISITS WITH CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM. IN SEPTEMBER 1974 USNS WILKES, A SURVEY SHIP MANNED BY A CIVILIAN CREW AND SCIENTISTS, VISITED LIMERICK. US NAVY FILES INDICATE VISIT WAS SUCCESS AND WITHOUT INCIDENT.

4. DEPT REQUESTS EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON ADVISABILITY OF US NAVAL SHIP VISITS TO IRELAND. AS NOTED IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, SUCH VISITS WOULD BE ON AN OCCASIONAL BASIS AND DEPENDENT UPON AVAILABILITY OF USN SHIPS IN THE GENERAL AREA. IF YOUR JUDGMENT IS THAT VISITS WOULD BE WELCOMED BY GOI, REQUEST YOUR VIEWS ON MOST APPROPRIATE SITES. KISSINGER

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